

# Skyline Ridge Runner

January 2024

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Vol. 36, No. 1

Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

## Broadband Access – Will It Be a Reality for Rural Oregonians?

By Alex Rose

Skyline Ridge Neighbors (SRN), in communication with a number of you regarding internet access, has grown increasingly concerned about the lack of connectivity in our community. Indeed, 73% of the 177 households who responded to the survey we conducted have unreliable internet service, with 51% of those experiencing speeds that fail to meet even half of the upload and download speed standards for broadband access. Another interesting number that stands out, is that of the 177 respondents, only 23 have speeds that exceed the Underserved Community standard under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

Internet access is no longer an optional feature of our lives. It is an essential necessity; a utility much like water, power, or “Ma Bell!” However, (and it’s a large ‘however’), internet access is not available to all, nor is it equitably available or even financially feasible for many. Thus, it becomes a dividing line between “haves” and “have-nots.” The majority of you who responded to the survey felt that \$50 a month is a fair price for internet service. It appears, however, that internet service generally costs at least \$80 and often more. In the more “rural” areas, broadband speeds generally cost \$120 and up.

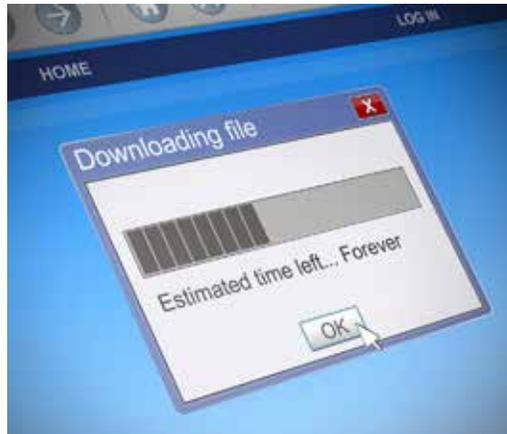
For example, the neighbor next door was originally quoted the outrageous price of \$36,000 by Comcast to connect service from our house to theirs (we’re the last home on Skyline Boulevard that has Comcast services.) The neighbors then purchased Starlink basic service, which costs \$120 per month and provides consistent service for both streaming and multiple computer use. Unlike many of our properties, theirs is fairly treeless and open, which allows for excellent satellite reception.

Another neighbor has had to implement a multi-vendor solution, as both he and his wife work from home and spend much of their days in online meetings. They’ve needed to acquire two dedicated Starlink systems, a Viasat connection, AND a point to point microwave system through Whiz to Coho in order to stay connected throughout our various weather patterns. Their total cost per month runs

around \$450, and they still experience times where they have no connection.

As this article will explain, we can be proactive. It’s going to require future community engagement, which is where we can all participate.

### Where We Are



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Oregon Broadband Office (OBO) Director Nick Batz reports that up until a year and a half ago, the entire Broadband office consisted of just one person. “Now, there are nine!” It’s a relatively new creation established by former Governor Brown and codified into existence by the Oregon legislature. “We have folks who travel around the state and do outreach in communities and with internet service providers to understand the gaps that exist and where we can plug in. Additionally, we are preparing Oregon to receive a huge federal investment into broadband infrastructure. There are two big

pots of money that are coming into Oregon.”

The first is \$157 million dollars intended for infrastructure development, and the second is \$688.9 million, which will be deployed starting in the coming year. These are both administered by the NTIA – National Telecommunications and Information Administration - which serves as the President’s principal adviser on telecommunications policies and is a branch of the FCC. It’s the entity with which the OBO will be interfacing.

Since these grants are not coming to the state as block grants, the OBO will be required to apply for the funding on a project-by-project basis. Thus, it will be up to the creativity and needs established by community groups, typically in partnership with an ISP, to write proposals and budgets for each project to be assessed and hopefully approved by the OBO for it to move forward.

The FCC recently published its second version of its Internet Broadband map, which is the document the U.S legislature has declared states are required to use to determine the amount of funding each state receives. This is why it is important for each one of us to update our infor-

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# Skyline Ridge Runner

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→ *Deadline for the next issue is March 15*

## Skyline Ridge Neighbors Inc.

Skyline Ridge Neighbors is a nonprofit organization serving rural northwestern Multnomah County through educational, environmental, and social programs that inform residents on relevant issues and events. SRN endeavors to better our community, encourage volunteer efforts, and openly communicate with residents and outside organizations.

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## Skyline Rural Watch Newsline

Subscribe to SRN's weekly email newsletter of local events and news via the link at [www.srnpx.org](http://www.srnpx.org). Contact the Editor, Laurel Erhardt, at [newslines@srnpx.org](mailto:newslines@srnpx.org) or 503.621.3501 to submit items for publication.

## SRN Website

Visit [www.srnpx.org](http://www.srnpx.org) for more news, photos and information about our community. If you have questions or comments, contact the Webmaster, Agnes Kwan, at [webmaster@srnpx.org](mailto:webmaster@srnpx.org).

The views and opinions presented herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by SRN or Skyline neighborhood residents.

## Thanks for Your Donations!

Many thanks to the following neighbors and friends who recently made cash donations to SRN:

~ Bryon and Cynthia Grant

~ James Emerson

~ Roger and Carol Wilkerson

SRN relies on the financial support of the Skyline community to pursue its nonprofit, educational mission. We operate entirely on the volunteers efforts of neighbors like you. Donations are tax-deductible and always appreciated! Please make checks payable to SRN and send them to Rachael Brake, SRN Treasurer, 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland, OR 97231. Thank you.



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# Support Improvements to Our Community Meeting Place

By Cheryl Neal

As a 40-year resident of our community I believe in contributing to the Grange Capital Improvement Project. This is why:

*Overwhelming evidence suggests that for the sake of our happiness and well-being, we need one another.*<sup>1</sup>

*As much as we need bread and sleep, human beings need recognition. The essence of dehumanization is not to see someone, to render him inconsequential and invisible.*<sup>2</sup>

*“Social connection is as fundamental to our mental and physical health as food, water and sleep.”*<sup>3</sup>

Our community thrives in no small part because we have a place to meet! Skyline Grange members volunteer their time and expertise to create year-round opportunities that promote community service and community resilience. As our community interacts together, we have the opportunity to gain understanding and trust of one another. Even the most private of us, or those who march to quite different drummers, benefit from the social cohesion and belonging<sup>4</sup> promoted through activities at the Skyline Grange.

Past generations built the Grange Hall in the early ‘50’s, when life was more agrarian. Destroyed by a fire in 1973, the Grange Hall was rebuilt thanks to the hard work of volunteers and a \$12,000 insurance reimbursement. Building codes were less stringent in the ‘70’s, and over time the Grange, an all-volunteer organization, steadily has enhanced the visitor experience, providing critical upgrades, essential updates, and functional improvements paid for by earnings generated at small, Grange volunteer-hosted

community events.

Not only is the Grange Hall a place for the Grange to host multiple happenings, but also it is the only local building routinely available to the public for community events and private gatherings.

Now the Grange Hall needs major, very expensive structural improvements to operate within current building safety and accessibility standards and user expectations. These costs outstrip the amounts the Grange alone can generate through their traditional community, service-oriented fundraising. With volunteer, yet professional, input, Grange members have proposed a thoughtful Capital Improvement Plan. Overcoming the challenges of fundraising for a “fraternal organization”, which is how the Grange is organized officially, will require significant public and private donations.

I’ve found my niche through a volunteering lens of, “Think globally, act locally!” The Grange is hyperlocal! I find satisfaction in contributing to the Grange Capital Improvement Fund, and hope that you’ll agree that by adding your contribution, the Grange can be the building we residents of the Skyline community need and deserve.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/06/opinion/loneliness-epidemic-solutions.html>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/02/opinion/sunday/resilience-bad-news-coping.html>

<sup>3</sup> *Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community*, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK595227/>

<sup>4</sup><https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/social-cohesion> □



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## Mark the Date, August 3, 2024 Summer Gathering

Did you miss the 2023 SRN Summer Gathering at the Plumper Pumpkin? Maybe you had made other plans already. Well, don’t miss out this summer. We will again have the event at the Plumper Pumpkin with plenty of activities, food, and a fun time getting together with your neighbors (not to mention lots of donated items for purchase at our auction). If you are interested in helping with the event, please contact Brad Graff, [bradgraff@gmail.com](mailto:bradgraff@gmail.com) or Tracey Larvenz [tlarvenz@gmail.com](mailto:tlarvenz@gmail.com).

# Skyline Community Loses Long Time Resident Lori Schreiber

By Nova Skye Platt

On the morning of October 16th, 2023, Lori Kay Schreiber, beloved mother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully at 67 years old after battling esophageal cancer. She is survived by her daughter, Nova Skye, her siblings, Carol, Tim, and Paul, her aunt, Mardelle, and her step-mother, Denise, as well as her best friend, Shawne, whom she considered a sister.

Lori was born August 22nd, 1956, in Klamath Falls, OR to Maurine and David Grover, the oldest of six children. Throughout the years, she lived in various parts of Oregon and California, but called Portland home for most of her life. She graduated from Rex Putnam High School in 1975, and returned to Portland in the mid 1990s, remaining here for the rest of her life.

Lori was an artist. She had a deep love for creating and appreciating all forms of art — music, dancing, poetry, cuisine, painting, and collages were among her favorites. Her creative mind made her an excellent problem solver, and she would often fix her own cars and homes throughout her life. She was also an engraver for many years, managing the Things Remembered location in Portland, and running a trophy shop.

Lori was a lifelong caregiver and healer. As the oldest of six, she learned from a young age how to care for others. Throughout her life she often opened her home to friends and family who needed a place to stay, gave people rides when they needed transportation, and cooked homemade meals for her neighbors. Those close to her know that she would rarely let you leave her home without a full stomach or small gift in your hands, and she was often said to have the best hugs around.

Lori loved being a part of the Skyline Ridge community, where she lived for more than 25 years. Some of her favorite moments were spent dancing at Freak Mountain Ramblers shows, cooking her signature dishes for the local potlucks, and standing in awe as the elk passed through the fields by her home on Skyline Boulevard. She considered her neighbors to be family, and her daughter grew up calling many of them aunts and uncles. The hill was

her home, and its community was something she deeply cherished.

Lori’s favorite role was being a mother to her only child, Nova Skye, born 1999. She often told friends that motherhood was the hardest and best thing she had ever done and would light up when talking about how proud she was of her daughter. She passed on her loves of art and community to Nova, who was by her side in her final moments.

Lori was always firm in knowing that she did not want a funeral when she died — she did not want people to be sad about her passing, but instead wanted people to celebrate the life she had lived and the people she loved. To honor this wish, there will be a celebration of her life on April 6th, 2024, with the music, art, and food that she would have loved. For more information on the celebration, or to share any fond memories you have of Lori, please reach out to Nova at 503.840.8339. □



Lori lived on Skyline Blvd. for over 25 years, and considered the Skyline Ridge community to be like family. (Photo by S. Michalka)

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► **Internet Access** (continued from p. 1)

mation for the third iteration of the map, which can be accessed through the following: <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov>. When we originally were given access to this map a few months ago, we noticed that local ISPs vastly exaggerated their ability and their actual intentions to serve many areas. Furthermore, the original FCC broadband map did not include affordability or cost estimates. As such, we question whether this map accurately reflects the true needs of Oregonians.

If a household runs two computers that require smooth streaming on a regular basis, at least 60 Mbps for downloads is recommended. Each additional computer will require an additional 30 Mbps. You can check your speed on: <https://www.speedtest.net>.

According to Nick Batz, the FCC’s mapping information reflects there are 126,000 unserved Oregonians, which is 8.4% of all eligible locations and another 58,000 unserved Oregonians (3.9%) of all broadband serviceable locations.

Furthermore, to help navigate the documents the NTIA/FCC is demanding that states follow to receive project-by-project funding; there are a 100-pages of just FAQ’s! Then, as the states (all 50!!!) begin submitting their funding proposals, the NTIA will require an unspecified length of time to evaluate the proposals.

The Federal government wants to invest in fiber, a more stable platform, upon which future access and technologies can be built. The downside to this is that because there are many small communities and people who live remotely, the costs for laying cable to just a few households can quickly become cost-prohibitive. According to Batz, “There will be a threshold – it’s called ‘the extremely high cost threshold’ whereby we have to determine whether it makes sense to lay fiber for those communities or go to some of the other options.”

What are the other options available to communities? Technologies such as Starlink and other wireless technologies are not preferred by Federal authorities; however, there may be communities where this is the only option. The option besides fiber is fixed wireless towers which require fiber as well and, in turn, broadcast signals (much like cell phone towers) into communities that are challenging to navigate - communities where there are trees, ravines, hills, and mountains.

The state will not own any of the infrastructure that will be built – it will be owned by the internet service providers - with which the state will be working. Also, communities will be able to form public or private entities to either own or share ownership in the broadband infrastructure serving them. The OBO is required to submit its proposals to the NTIA by December of this year.

The aim of the Digital Equity Plan developed by the Oregon Broadband Office (OBO) is as follows. “It is the vision of the State of Oregon that all people in Oregon will have meaningful access to affordable and reliable high-speed broadband home internet, an internet-enabled

computing device, digital literacy, technical support, and inclusive content. Each component of digital equity enables economic and educational opportunities and supports improved health outcomes and a robust democracy. If you wish to read the Digital Equity Plan, here is the link: [https://www.oregon.gov/biz/Publications/Broadband/Oregon\\_Digital\\_Equity\\_Plan\\_Draft.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/biz/Publications/Broadband/Oregon_Digital_Equity_Plan_Draft.pdf).

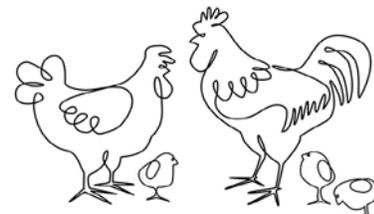
**What We Can Do!**

According to Brian McGuirk the Broadband Project Coordinator,(with whom we are in communication), it was through community participation and the work of the OBO, that Oregon was able to add 60,000 more households to the FCC map, which greatly helped to secure the large fund Oregon is receiving. To connect with the OBO you can call them at 503.986.0021, email them at [broadband.oregon@biz.oregon.gov](mailto:broadband.oregon@biz.oregon.gov) or visit [https://www.oregon.gov/biz/programs/Oregon\\_Broadband\\_Office/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/biz/programs/Oregon_Broadband_Office/Pages/default.aspx).

There you will find information about community listening sessions or BEAD or DEA Funding meetings.

Currently, the OBO and Oregon Biz are entirely focused on making sure all the documentation requirements, that the NTIA and FCC require to receive the actual funds allocated to Oregon, are fulfilled. Both the \$157 million and the \$689.9 million tranches require detailed descriptions of plans and projects the state is planning. There is not, as yet, some type of “customer service” feature available from the OBO. However, we strongly encourage you to stay in touch with the office and register with them so you receive newsletters and announcements. Don’t be disappointed if there’s a long response time; I had to call numerous times to receive a response to write this article. □

*Special thanks to SRN Board Member, Tracey Larvoenz, for managing the SRN internet access survey.*




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## Close Encounters of the Wildlife Kind, Part 2

By Alex Rose

A sweet deer tale from Vickie Coghill: "Driving down Logie Trail, I saw a deer on the side of the road. I slowed way down because deer will zag in front of a vehicle in an instant. The doe paid no attention to me and kept looking at the fence. So I looked, too.

There was her baby stuck in the fence! It was an itty bitty spotted week old fawn. I stopped and pulled over to assess the situation. The baby had its front legs and part of her body through the fence but her back leg was woven through the wire and held fast. She was crying for her mama because there was no hope of her getting out of that. I went to her cautiously because I've seen enough mad mama videos, and I didn't want that mama deer kicking my head in.

I went to the baby slowly, and all the while speaking softly and keeping my ears open for hoof stomping or other warning signs of an attack. I told the mama I'd help her, and I asked her to please don't hurt or kill me.

She stood nicely about 20' away as I pulled and untangled her precious, adorable, soft baby from the wire. It was tricky with the back leg, but I got her released in a couple minutes. I don't know how that little thing got so woven in that fencing! I checked her out good for injuries and thankfully there were none. Not a scratch. I packed her several feet past the fence and stood her up. As soon as she was on the ground mama deer came and checked her out with a couple licks. Then off she slowly walked with her baby bouncing behind her. It was an amazing thing to witness. There was no hurry and no panic. I think she trusted me to help. It was such a beautiful thing to be involved in. With that crying baby it would have been a very short time before the coyotes in that ravine heard her and she would have been a goner for sure.

I was overjoyed and blessed to be a part of that special rescue! It was a great day!"

### Elk Everywhere

From Karen McDaniel: "Several years ago, my husband Daryl came home from work, driving his F-350 extended cab truck, when he noticed a small herd of elk on the hill above our house, chomping on my blueberry bushes and apple trees. Annoyed, he put the truck into four wheel drive and drove up the hill, honking his horn at them.

The elk dispersed. Daryl returned to the driveway and

parked for the night. The following morning, when he was leaving for work, he discovered a very large pile of elk droppings on his front bumper, which was at a convenient height for whichever elk decided to make a political comment."

From Jim Kessinger: "When the Fall pumpkin season is finished, we have literally tons of pumpkins left over, so

I put them out for the elk; and in less than a week, they've eaten hundreds and hundreds of pounds of pumpkin – there's nothing left. Elk can be dangerous, especially in the Fall when the bulls are active. One morning, my older dog wasn't in her usual place on the porch. I went out in the fields to find her; and who knows how?...I found her; she had been trampled to death by elk."



*We live with herds of Roosevelt elk foraging through the Skyline ridge landscape (Photo: A. Rose)*

### The Crafty Cougar

From one neighbor: "After talking to several neighbors near and far, I have learned there is a cougar in the area. In the last few months several people lost lambs, which could have been eaten by coyotes. Full grown goats and sheep have disappeared and also a pregnant ewe. Gone without a trace. One horse on Skyline had rake marks on its sides and back from that cougar. Luckily the horse survived. Cougars will kill and pack the victim off to eat and then cache the rest of it for later."

From Alex Rose: For the first two years we owned this property, our caretaker told us of a cougar that had been sniffing around his truck. He had two medium-sized dogs that might have attracted the big cat; or perhaps the smell of butchered meat he sometimes carried. The house on this property is perched high, affording a full view of a large meadow that we can see at all times.

Lo and behold, on a sunny afternoon, the first summer we lived here, a large long-tailed cat leisurely strolled across the entire stretch of the meadow. It was so surprising and beautiful to see! We were enthralled. Two sides of the meadow are surrounded by heavily-treed ravines filled with elk paths and wildlife; and we see trees down there scarred with long and deep rake marks, very high on the trunks. Two weeks ago, I saw a large dog-like (I thought) animal near our driveway about ¼ mile from the house. I couldn't ascertain what it was; and before I could grab the binoculars, it suddenly startled and proceeded to race the full length of the meadow towards the treed ravines. Thinking at first it was a coyote, I then noted the long tail; and it ran stretched out like a cheetah so fast, I couldn't grab the binocs in time.

Another neighbor, "It happened in the early hours

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*Skyline Ridge Runner*

## What's Happening at the Skyline Grange

By Sen Speroff

There has been lots going on at the Grange since the last Ridge Runner. Over 50 local households donated items to our most successful Garage Sale ever with proceeds going to our Capital Improvement Fund. There are 17 people with CPR/Basic First Aid certifications thanks to a course jointly sponsored by us and Skyline Ridge Neighbors.

About 90 people enjoyed our annual Community Soup Supper with its \$935 in proceeds donated to Skyline Ridge NET. Eighteen local artisans sold their wares at our annual Artisans Holiday Sale. Sixteen people crafted their personal holiday wreaths at our second annual Wreath-Making Workshop. When approached by desperate working parents, we opened our doors to childcare during the 11-day Portland Teachers' strike.

### Upcoming Community Activities

Upcoming events and building use are posted on <https://skylinegrange894/calendar/>.

Our Education Committee has prepared the next round of talks in its Skyline Living Series. These talks are free to attend. The Committee is full of ideas, but if you have a topic you would like to be considered, contact them at [skylinegrange894@msn.com](mailto:skylinegrange894@msn.com). Here is what is scheduled this winter:

**Jan. 31, 7 pm:** "Forest Park: Our Green Neighbor." Forest Park Conservancy will present information about the origin, history, permitted activities, ecological importance, management, threats, future management plans, and wonders of this nearby 5200-acre park with 80 miles of trails.

**Feb. 21, 7 pm:** "Skyline Ridge Reads: Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard." Burt Lazar and Judy Flynn will lead a discussion of this book by Douglas W. Tallamy. Tallamy lays out a grassroots approach to conservation where homeowners turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitat. Read it and join the discussion.

**Mar. 20, 7 pm:** "Pollinators." Pollinator populations are at risk. Kammy Kern-Korot from West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District will discuss how you can create pollinator-friendly areas to provide a constant food supply throughout the growing season for our native pollinators. Without pollinators we would not have many of the foods and medicines we depend upon.

### Yoga at the Grange

Janci is back and Yoga at the Grange has resumed three mornings a week. Schedule and details are on [www.yogainalignment.com](http://www.yogainalignment.com).

### Pancakes, Etc. Brunch

Skyline Grange invites the Skyline community to a hearty brunch on Sunday, February 18, serving from 9:30-11:30 a.m. We cook; you enjoy. Rightly so, people have come to expect Grange home cooking with no processed, boxed foods. Come fill your bellies with pancakes, waffles, French toast, breakfast muffins/breads, quiches/stratas, fresh fruit, and fresh brewed coffee.

### Mostly Tree Seedling Sale

This Sale is by Pre-Order only. The pre-order form will be available in early January. Pick-up date is yet to be determined, but it is usually sometime between mid-February and early March. Get your order in ASAP because some species sell out quickly and it is a first-come first-served basis. Contact [skylinegrange894@msn.com](mailto:skylinegrange894@msn.com) for a pre-order form.

### Spring Garage Sale

The Spring Garage Sale is scheduled for Friday-Saturday, March 1-2, 2024. Donations from local households give our garage sales a uniquely Skyline flavor. We call our garage sales "Everything But the Kitchen Sink," but they are much more. We guarantee you will find items from zany to practical, so come for the quality, quantity, and good prices offered at the Spring Garage Sale, and expect a welcoming atmosphere. If you would like to donate clean, functioning items, drop-off times and criteria will be posted later on SRN's Newslines and on our website. All proceeds will go to our Capital Improvement Fund-raising Campaign.

### Garlic Mustard Drop-Off Site

From Mar. 22 to June 15, Skyline Grange will provide a drop-off site for garlic mustard pulled and bagged by local residents. We all need to be on the lookout for these highly invasive plants and pull them before they go to seed in late spring. For details about how to identify garlic mustard, its threat to our native habitat, and how to bag and dispose of it safely at Skyline Grange, visit <https://www.srnpx.org/garlic-mustard.html>.

### Tree & Native Plant Sale

This huge 19th annual sale is on Friday-Saturday, April 5-6, 2024. There are two parts to our sale. The indoor Native Plant Section has a large variety of native plants which can be obtained either by pre-order (encouraged) or purchased on sale days. The outdoor Bareroot Section has fruit-bearing, shade, flowering and ornamental trees and ornamental shrubs. You cannot pre-order bareroots but only purchase on sale days. Most of these bareroot trees and shrubs are not true PNW "natives", but they have

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been selected for their ability to thrive in our area while not out-competing plants in our native habitat. All plants are from licensed local nurseries. Grange has a Temporary Nursery Sale license from the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture. Expect both quality and quantity at good prices.

## Capital Improvement Update

We had hoped our long-anticipated restroom on the main floor could have been installed by now, but sadly, not yet. Our Reduced Scope Project application for permits was submitted at the end of March. Since then, we have responded to checksheet questions from the City and submitted an appeal to a) establish the baseline occupancy, b) grant that since the existing structure was annexed into the City as-is, the requirement for sprinklers should be waived, and c) grant that the proposed improvements improve accessibility to restrooms and excuses the need to meet current code for additional fixtures. These appeal items were granted but further requirements from the City include a Conditional Land Use Review. The issue has been complicated by the fact that our land was annexed into a Residential Farm/Forest zone by the City in 1973 during which continued approval for fraternal and community use was not well documented by the City. We feel we have good documentation that the land since 1947 has been legally used for fraternal and community use and that it is in compliance with City zoning codes. This will take more time and more expense. Once this project is completed, people with physical limitations will have better access to a restroom and a second emergency exit, and the structural integrity of the building's foundation will be improved. Without unexpected expenses, the Project is fully financed at present.

## Seismic Upgrades

Once the Reduced Scope Project is underway, we will seriously turn our attention towards fundraising for the next capital improvement phase, Seismic Upgrades, starting with a seismic analysis of the building. We estimate that just this analysis will cost about \$40,000. Then based upon its results, there will need to be a determination of what steps would provide the most for the buck and satisfy City building codes. Seismic upgrades will be required by the City to get permitted for any future projects. At minimum, we suspect the analysis will determine the need to tie the building to the foundation, and to shore all the walls, which will be very expensive, but necessary.

## Fundraising

We would like to thank the following individuals and households for donating to our Capital Improvement Fund so far: Patrick Ahern, Nicole Anderson, Yvonne Roach, Sharon Barthmaier, Joe & Shari Black, Pat Brady, Rachael Brake & Grant Rolette, John Chen & Judy Flynn, Steve Cook, Jim Cramer, Roger & Karen Cummings, Jim & Carol

Cure, Sevda Day, Dexter Memorial Band, John & Valerie Driscoll, Eric & Deb Erath, Linda Gustafson, Carole Hallett, Jill Inahara, Burt Lazar, Shawn & Dave Looney, Brian Lightcap, Tom Lovett, James Marquard & Babetta Chiari-to, John Martin, Donna Mauch, Daryl & Karen McDaniel, Robert McLaurin & Susan Studd, Claudia Mederos, Miles & Libby Merwin, Elliot Michael, Cheryl Neal, Dorrine Pedersen, Ken Pincus & Hiko Ozawa, Yuka Pincus, Debra Ramsey, Karen Ross, Ann Ruttan, Elena Speroff, Leon & Sen Speroff, Bernie Thurber & Jerralynn Ness, Tracy Waters & Laurel Harroun, Lauren Weiner, the 70 households who donated items for our garage sales, customers who rounded up at our garage and plant sales, anonymous donors who put money into the donation jar, 4 large Anonymous Skyline Donors.

We thank the following groups for their donations: Skyline School PTA, Skyline School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class, and the First Responders Event Committee. We acknowledge former Rep. Brad Witt and his staff who encouraged us to apply for and successfully receive a CSFRF grant and to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for supporting us as we fulfill the terms of this grant. We also thank the volunteers and donors-in-kind who made possible our garage and plant sales, flea market, the wreath-making workshop, Café Grange, and brunches with proceeds going to this Fund.

To make a monetary donation, send a check to "Skyline Grange", c/o 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd, Portland 97231; or you can use Venmo through this link <https://tinyurl.com/Venmo-profile>, or you can use a credit card by making arrangements with Treasurer Rachael at 503.621.3423. Please note that donations to our capital improvement fund are not tax-deductible. (Donations to our Education/Charitable Activities Fund are deductible.)

## Join Skyline Grange

Since its inception in 1867, the Grange has always been a family-friendly organization promoting multi-generational activity with opportunities for children to take on responsibilities. Our Grange is reinstating Family Membership with hopes that family members will promote Grange events geared to the interest and needs of families in our community.

For Grange Family Membership, a family consists of a one or more adults and their children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren between the ages of 14 and 23 who live in the same household or are absent due to illness, education, or military service. Foster, adopted, stepchildren, and other legal dependents are considered part of a legal guardian's family. Anyone age 14 or older can serve as an officer. Children ages 5-14 are eligible to belong as a junior. Dues for a Family in 2024 are \$110. Please consider joining the Skyline Grange with a Family Membership.

Grange is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-profit, and totally volunteer-driven organization. We are a di-

## We Welcome Your Stories for the Skyline Ridge Runner

By the Editors

Our neighborhood newsletter is crowd-sourced and relies on submissions from local residents and organizations that work with our community. We want the Ridge Runner to inform, inspire, amuse and motivate you. Along with other SRN activities like the Newsliner and Summer Gathering, it's part of what unites us as neighbors lucky enough to live in a beautiful corner of the world.

So please consider sharing your writing talents with the neighborhood. We welcome factual stories about how

you manage your land, husband your livestock, tend your garden and interact with wildlife. Tell us about local events that are relevant to our neighborhood. We also encourage stories about the history of Skyline and the people who lived here. And we especially like creative writing, including short stories, poetry, tall tales, opinion, etc.

Please see the guidelines for Ridge Runner submissions on the SRN website: <https://www.srnpx.org/ridge-runner-style-guide.html>. Our deadlines are the 15th of March, June, September and December. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for considering. □

### ► **Close Encounters** (continued from p. 6)

of the morning in 2018 when I was going to do chores at my father's (Don Jenkins ) house. I heard a deep grunting sound that went on and off as I walked down towards the barn. When I arrived, the goat was not there, and the sheep was in distress. I took the dogs into the field to find the goat and assess the sheep. The dogs refused to chase, but I saw the cougar's eyes glowing back at me! The goat had been pulled up onto a burn pile by the cougar, who retreated when the dogs and I arrived. Sadly, Johnny Carson, our dear goat did not make it."

### **The Bothersome Bear**

Bears are showing up on a more regular basis; so I'm saving bear tales for the spring when Ben Cate, our representative from the ODFW will be making a bear presentation for the community at the Skyline Grange.

From Dick Gilkeson - "My neighbor noticed that one of his bee hives had been moved about forty feet overnight. He reported the incident and said he believed it was a visiting bear. The response was that no bears had been seen in the Forest Park area since 1985, and that it must have been raccoons moving his beehives around.

Mark insisted that it was more likely a bear since no raccoon was strong enough to move a hive across his field. He insisted that the animal control folks set up a trap that would catch a bear, if one actually existed, to go after food left in a cage at the end of a tunnel-like opening.

Sure enough the next morning there was a bear in the trap which was then carted off Mark's property."

### **The Brainy Bobcat**

Bobcats (also known as Lynx) are part of our landscape, and their fluffy kitten offspring are so much fun to see and watch, reminding us enormously of our own feline companions.

From Casselle La Tourette - "This really cute bobcat mother began showing up with her two captivating kittens. It was a dry summer, so lots of wildlife were moving in closer and closer to the house. We wanted to try our hand at chickens, so we built what I thought was the Fork Knox for chickens; but the crafty Bobcat mom taught us a thing or two. First she burrowed under the fence; we fixed that; then, she jumped over the fence - another chicken down; so, we covered the coop area but not the entire chicken run, which was large; and the chickens were only let out into their run if the gardener was right there with them. But then, one day he stepped just a few feet away; and like a shot, Bobcat Mom flew over the chicken fence and escaped with yet another feathered meal. We realized she was always with us, watching us at all times. We had become her Seven-Eleven! Having a small child wobbling around the garden, I realized that my baby, too, was being surveilled under the watchful eye of our "resident" Bobcat...Our creature neighbors teach us a thing or two, so I understood I had to take measures..." *To be continued...* □

### ► **Grange News** (continued from p. 8)

verse group of people who believe that we are fortunate to live in the Skyline area and dedicated to support its well-being. We take the fact seriously that our building is a community asset as a gathering place. Our impact, activities, and accomplishments depend upon our members and community volunteers. We offer 3 categories of membership: lifetime, individual and family.

You can learn more about the Grange and contact us regarding rentals and general questions as follows: [www.SkylineGrange894.org](http://www.SkylineGrange894.org); [SkylineGrange894@msn.com](mailto:SkylineGrange894@msn.com); [\[Facebook.com/Skyline-Grange-894-169559023662398/\]\(https://www.facebook.com/Skyline-Grange-894-169559023662398/\);  
Physical Address: 11275 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland, OR 97231; Mailing Address: 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland, OR 97231. □](http://www.</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)



## Sheltering At Home Due To Hazardous Air Quality

By Sen Speroff

Recently a group of Skyline residents went to a screening of "Once a Braided River," with a discussion after the film. It was sobering and a real wakeup call. It raised the alarm for our need to know what to do if we suddenly had health-threatening air quality.

We live in a place with numerous situations that could quickly cause hazardous air quality.

- The Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub. Near Linnton along Hwy 30, there are 630 aging storage tanks holding more than 300 million gallons of fuel while sitting on seismically vulnerable soil susceptible to liquefaction in an earthquake. Approximately 90 percent of the liquid fuel for the entire state of Oregon and 100 percent of the jet fuel for Portland's airport comes through the CEI. (<https://orsolutions.org/osproject/critical-energy-infrastructure-hub-assessment>)
- Trains carrying hazardous materials. Remember the train that derailed and caught on fire in Moiser, OR in 2016. The same type of trains travel through Linnton every day carrying crude from Canada's oil sands for Zenith Energy ([https://response.epa.gov/site/site\\_profile.aspx?site\\_id=11637](https://response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=11637))
- Smoke from wildfires. Even in healthy people, exposures to fine particles in smoke can potentially lead to transient reductions in lung function, and pulmonary inflammation. <https://www.epa.gov/wildfire-smoke-course/health-effects-attributed-wildfire-smoke>

Here are steps to take during an event in which our air quality is so hazardous it requires emergency shelter at home:

- Gather your family and pets and go inside immediately. Choose a safe area that can be closed off. Let your emergency contact know where you are.
- Gather needed supplies of duct tape, plastic garbage bags or plastic rolls, food, water, phone, radio, and basic needs while sheltered in a designated area.
- Seal the designated room to stop outside air from coming in using duct tape, rolls of plastic or plastic garbage bags. Lock all windows and doors. Shut off all sources of outside air. Turn off the furnace and water heater. Close, tape and seal windows, doors, kitchen vents, bathroom vents, fireplaces, wood stoves, cold air return vents.
- Stay put. You and your pets should not go outside until an all clear message is given.
- Source: <https://www.emergency.cdc.gov/shelterinplace.asp>, and Shelter In Place Emergency Instructions on Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/340304603>),

### NET Beneficiary of Soup Supper

We thank Skyline Grange for donating its proceeds from the Soup Supper to us. The \$935 is being used to obtain needed supplies. We also recently received a donation from Friends of Portland NET, the 501 (c) 3 established to support local NET teams. You can donate funds for our NET through this organization: Friends of Portland NET (<https://friendsofportlandnet.org>).

### Become a NET team member!

Did you know that most of the people rescued in a disaster are rescued by their neighbors, NOT by professional first responders? The Portland NET program will train you on the basic skills you need to be a neighborhood hero after a disaster, and to do it safely. For information, log onto <https://www.portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams>.

### Affiliated Team Membership

If you're not interested or just don't have time to do the full NET training, we welcome you to join us as "Affiliated" team volunteers (ATVs). We would appreciate your aid, expertise, and skills in a disaster. You are welcome to attend our monthly meetings usually on the first Tuesday of the month at the Grange at 7 p.m.

One position that doesn't require any physical work would be that of an Amateur Radio Operator for Skyline Ridge NET. AROs are vital in an emergency, especially with the limitations of two-way radios in our steep, vegetated terrain. For further details log into NET Amateur Radio Resources | [Portland.gov](http://Portland.gov) or contact Rachael Brake.

### Contact Us

NETS are here to support the community. Questions? Email Skyline Ridge NET at [SkylineRidgeNET@gmail.com](mailto:SkylineRidgeNET@gmail.com) or contact Rachael Brake, Team Leader, at 503.621.3423.

☐



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**Potassium Salt pellets.** Once for my defunct water-treatment system, they may be useful for yours. Eight 40-pound bags. Diamond Crystal and Morton brands. Make offer. Local. Jim Emerson, opecheelake@hotmail.com.

**House Cleaners Wanted.** Looking for a solid recommendation for honest, trustworthy and competent house cleaners. Please txt 650.743.1745. We live on NW Rock Creek Rd.

**Seeking Home on Acreage.** I enthusiastically want to live/settle here in the Tualatin Mountains. I have many fruit/nut trees, berries, and vines ready to plant. Willing to rent-to-own from someone wishing to transfer stewardship. Avid botanist; farm-raised; very responsible; credit score 800+. Caleb, 503.812.3913, Enjoy\_Existence@yahoo.com.

**Trash Can Hauler.** Tool used to easily tow your garbage bins to the street. Haul one or two bins at a time. Watch our YouTube video, see how easy it is to use. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgfl6VO94-w>. \$40. Free delivery to Skyline area available. Email trashcanhauler@yahoo.com.

**Phoenix Farm Riding School.** English horse riding lessons for the whole family. All ages and ability levels are welcome! Day-off-school camps. Summer camps. Parties and special events. Located on the corner of Skyline Blvd. & Rock Creek Rd. Call/text 503.621.3823, email 13phoenix-farm13@gmail.com.

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**Borrow tool to eliminate Scotch broom,** holly and other woody shrubs, sapling trees easily. SRN will lend 3 sizes of Weed Wrench. Contact Sen 503.621.3331 for large and medium size (Skyline near mile marker 15). Contact Laura 503.407.7175 for small size (McNamee Rd.).

**Rent the Skyline Grange.** Reservations accepted for dates this year, Covid-19 permitting. Rental details at [www.skylinegrange894.org](http://www.skylinegrange894.org).



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## Community Calendar

**Jan. 8, 7:30 pm:** Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email [SkylineGrange894@msn.com](mailto:SkylineGrange894@msn.com).

**Jan. 11, 6:30 pm:** SRN Board online meeting via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff ([bradgraff@gmail.com](mailto:bradgraff@gmail.com)) to get the link.

**Jan. 31, 7 pm:** "Forest Park: Our Green Neighbor." At the Skyline Grange, Forest Park Conservancy will tell us all about our next door, 5200 ac. public park.

**Feb. 8, 6:30 pm:** SRN Board online meeting via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff ([bradgraff@gmail.com](mailto:bradgraff@gmail.com)) to get the link.

**Feb. 12, 7 pm:** Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email [SkylineGrange894@msn.com](mailto:SkylineGrange894@msn.com).

**Feb. 18, 9:30 - 11:30 am:** Pancakes, Etc. Brunch at the Grange. Serving from 9:30-11:30 a.m. We cook; you enjoy.

**Feb. 21, 7 pm:** "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard." Skyline Grange hosts a discussion of this important book.

**Mar. 1-2:** Spring Garage Sale at the Skyline Grange. Much more than "Everything But the Kitchen Sink."

**Mar. 11, 7 pm:** Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email [SkylineGrange894@msn.com](mailto:SkylineGrange894@msn.com).

**Mar. 14, 6:30 pm:** SRN Board online meeting via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff ([bradgraff@gmail.com](mailto:bradgraff@gmail.com)) to get the link.

**Mar. 20, 7 pm:** "Pollinators." Kammy Kern-Korot from WMSWCD will talk at the Skyline Grange about how to encourage native pollinators.

**Apr. 5-6:** 19th annual Tree & Native Plant Sale at the Grange. All plants are from licensed local nurseries. Expect both quality and quantity at good prices.



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